

# **A modern Atlas of Nottinghamshire Centipedes**

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**Trevor and Dilys Pendleton**



## Introduction

Despite their great abundance, Centipedes (Chilopoda) have remained largely neglected in terms of their identification and study in Nottinghamshire and until only recently, there was very little information available regarding the county's species.

But thanks to Tony Barber of the British Myriapod and Isopod Group, it is now possible for us to produce and publish a long overdue modern atlas of Nottinghamshire Centipedes. Tony was kind enough to send us all the VC56 records which the BMIG held. Many were Tony's own records from his time living in Bingham, but P.E. Jones also did a great deal of recording in the same area of the county and at around the same time.

Records sent to us by the BMIG, coupled with our own records, means that we actually have a good picture of species distribution within Nottinghamshire and probably much better than many other Midland counties. Centipede distribution also tends to reflect recorder location, so the distribution of many Centipedes may seem to be quite patchy.

## Nottinghamshire records of *Geophilus carpophagus*

Only recently recorded from Nottinghamshire (April 2015), *Geophilus carpophagus* has frequently been confused with *Geophilus easoni* in the past, and only recently have the two been considered to be separate species (Arthur, *et al* 2001). There is a previous record from Bunny Old Wood, but the recorder is unknown and there was no retained specimen. *Geophilus carpophagus* is not a woodland species, favouring more urban locations, where it can be found under loose mortar and brickwork on the walls of buildings etc.

## Nottinghamshire species

It is likely that most species listed as occurring in Nottinghamshire are still present and fairly widespread. Its just that no one is looking for them. On a cold, wet day in early March 2013, we brought home a carrier bag of leaf litter and moss collected at Sherwood Forest CP and promptly found Nottinghamshire's first record of *Lithobius muticus*. There is no doubt that more new species for the county are still waiting to be found.

### ***Lamyctes emarginatus*** (Newport 1844)

The only Nottinghamshire record is from Bingham in 1968 (Jones, P.E.)

### ***Lithobius calcaratus*** (C.L. Koch, 1844)

Recent records have come from lowland heath sites in the Sherwood Forest area, including Strawberry Hill Heath near Mansfield (Pendleton, T.A. and Pendleton, D.T). There is a 1983 record from Bunny Old Wood in the south of the county.

### ***Lithobius crassipes*** (L. Koch, 1862)

Probably much more common and widespread than the distribution map suggests. Well recorded from the Bingham area of south-east Nottinghamshire in the late 1960's and early 1970's (Barber, A. and Jones, P.E.)

### ***Lithobius curtipes*** (C.L. Koch, 1847)

Must be considered to be rare in Nottinghamshire, as it was never recorded from the Bingham area, or anywhere along the Trent Valley by Barber, A. and Jones, P.E. in the late 1960's and early 1970's. There is a single record from Bunny Old Wood dated 1983, although the recorder is unknown

### ***Lithobius forficatus*** (Linné, 1758)

The most widespread of all the *Lithobius* Centipedes in Nottinghamshire. There are obvious concentrations of records from the Bingham and Sherwood Forest areas of the county, which have seen most recording.

### ***Lithobius melanops*** (Newport, 1835)

Scarce in Nottinghamshire, with records from Burntstump Hill, Bingham (Barber, A.) and Sherwood Forest (Pendleton, T.A. and Pendleton, D.T)

***Lithobius microps*** (Meinert, 1868)

Currently only known from the south of the county, but is probably much more widespread, as this is a common *Lithobius*, often found in urban locations.

***Lithobius muticus*** (C.L. Koch, 1847)

Rare and restricted with the only county records coming from Budby South Forest and Sherwood Forest CP in early 2013. (Pendleton, T.A. and Pendleton, D.T)

***Lithobius variegatus*** (Leach, 1814)

Widespread and probably under recorded in Nottinghamshire. However, this species is not as common as the familiar *Lithobius forficatus*.

***Cryptops hortensis*** (Donovan, 1810)

Most frequent around the Mansfield area, but probably widespread across much of Nottinghamshire. It can be found under stones and other debris, often on brownfield sites. Also well recorded from the Bingham area

***Geophilus carpophagus*** (Leach, 1814)

*Geophilus carpophagus* favours more urban locations, where it can be found underneath loose mortar and brickwork on the walls of buildings etc. Likely to be quite widespread in Nottinghamshire, but currently known only from Sookholme Church (Pendleton, T.A. and Pendleton, D.T)

***Geophilus easoni*** (Arthur *et al.*, 2001)

Widespread and often common at many lowland heath and woodland sites in central Nottinghamshire.

***Geophilus electricus*** (Linné, 1758)

The only Nottinghamshire record is from Bingham in 1968 (Jones, P.E.)

***Geophilus flavus*** (De Geer, 1778)

Most common in the south-east of the county, but records from Newark in 1969 and 1970 (Jones, P.E.). Recently recorded from Sherwood Forest and Kirton Wood. (Pendleton, T.A. and Pendleton, D.T)

***Geophilus insculptus*** (Attems, 1895 & Dagger)

Common. Well recorded from many sites in the Bingham and Trent Valley areas during the late 1960's and early 1970's.

***Geophilus truncorum*** (Bergsoë & Meinert, 1886)

Common and widespread. Most often recorded from north of Nottingham, towards the Sherwood Forest area

***Schendyla nemorensis*** (C.L. Koch, 1837)

The distribution map suggests that this species has a southerly distribution in Nottinghamshire. Regularly recorded from the Bingham area (Jones, P.E.) in the late 1960's and 1970's

***Strigamia acuminata*** (Leach, 1814)

Uncommon. Most records are from the south-east of Nottinghamshire, but there is a recent record from Eaton Wood in 2013 (Pendleton, T.A. and Pendleton, D.T).

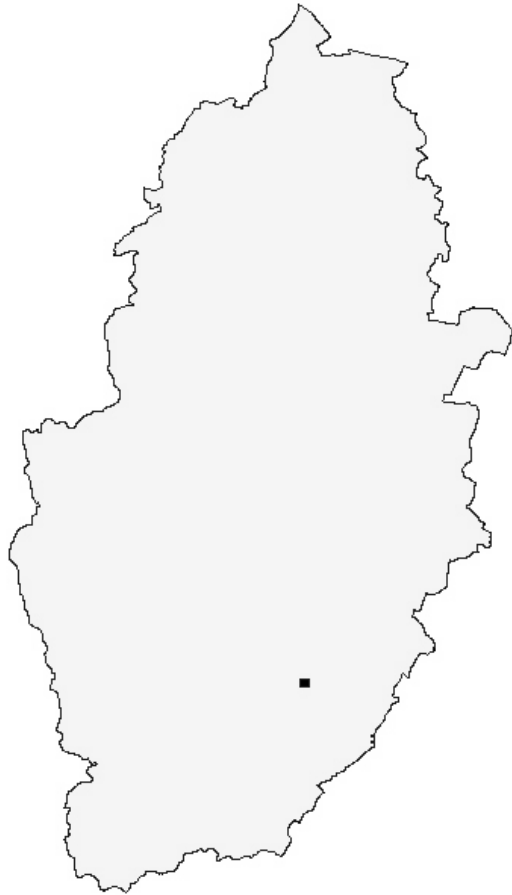
***Stigmatogaster subterranea*** (Shaw, 1789)

Almost certainly widespread across much of Nottinghamshire. Frequent in gardens

## The Nottinghamshire distribution maps

The distribution maps are largely built from the records of Tony Barber, P.E. Jones and ourselves (Trevor and Dilys Pendleton). We have avoided using historical records sourced from J.W. Carr's book *The Invertebrate Fauna of Nottinghamshire*, feeling that a modern atlas is more representative of the current distribution of our Centipede fauna and far more useful.

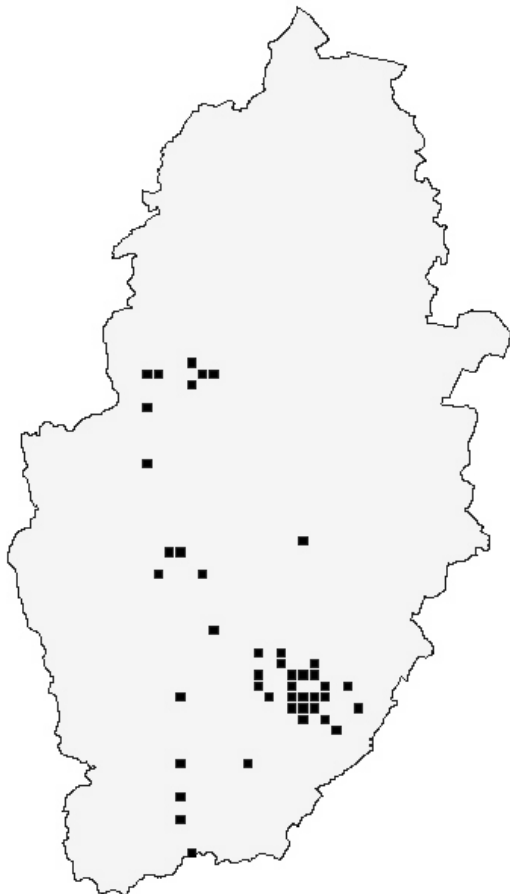
***Lamyctes fulvicornis***



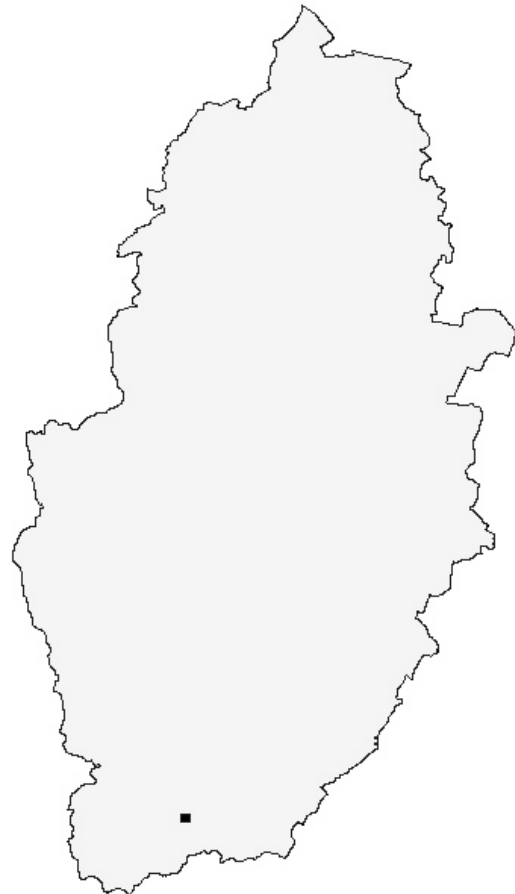
***Lithobius calceratus***



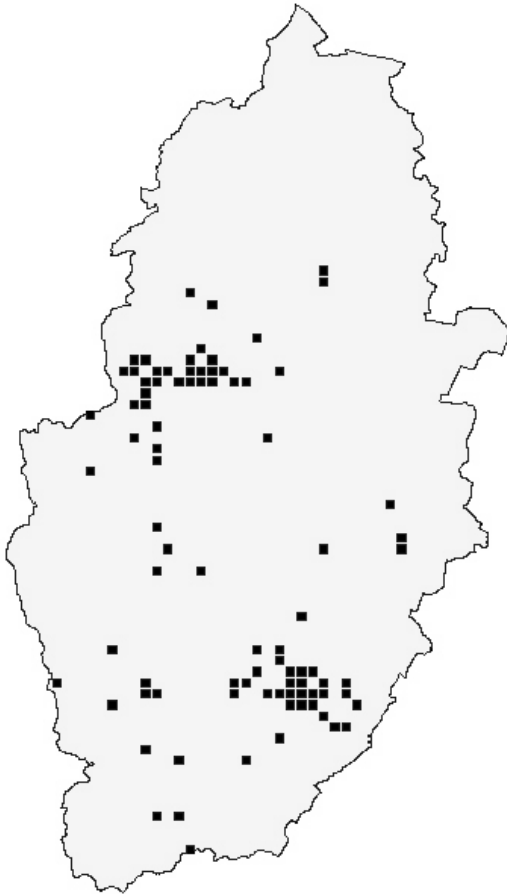
***Lithobius crassipes***



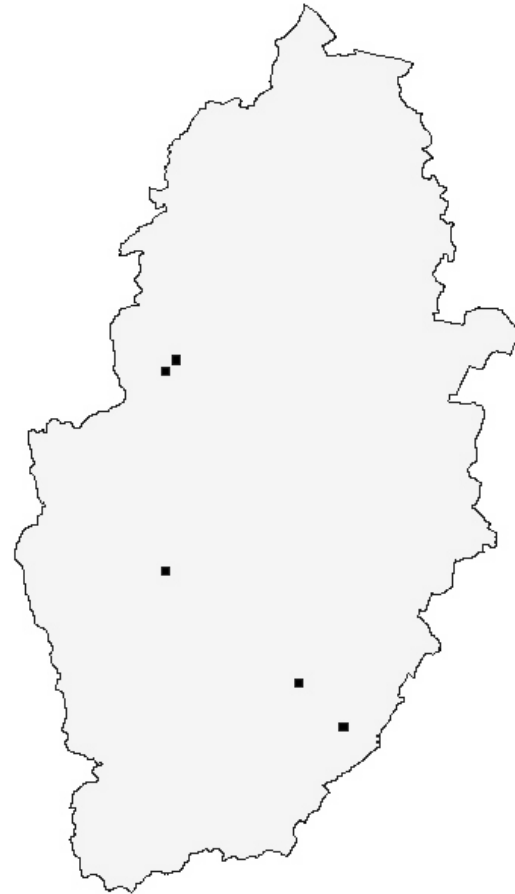
***Lithobius curtipes***



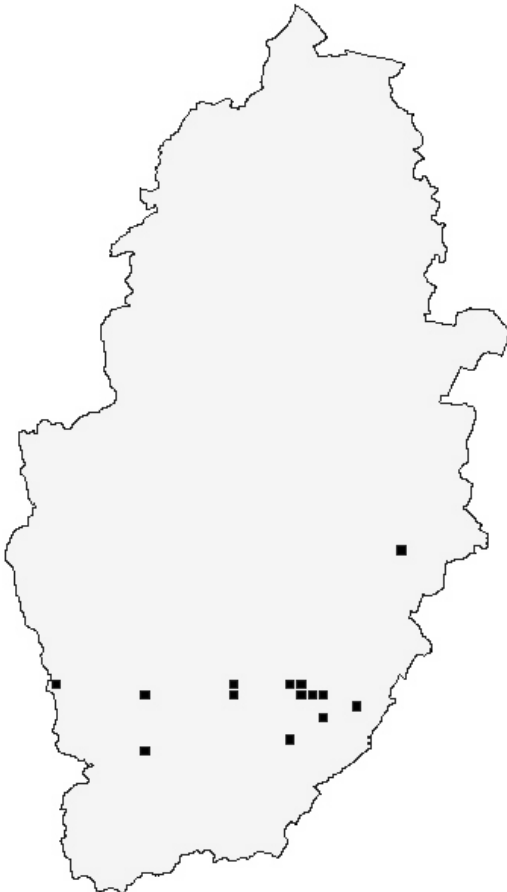
*Lithobius forficatus*



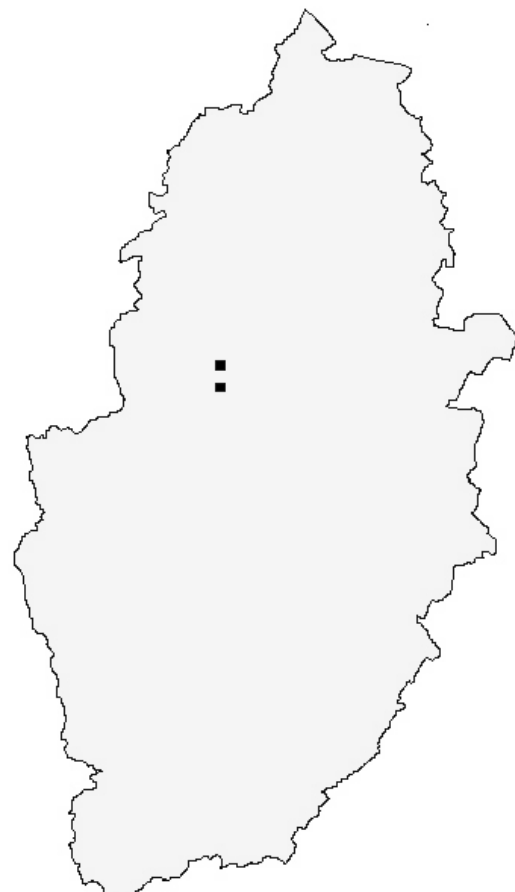
*Lithobius melanops*



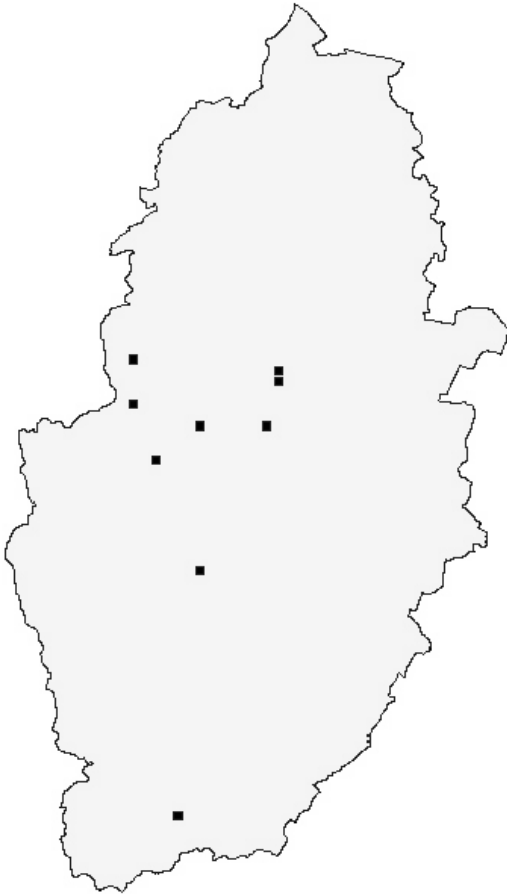
*Lithobius microps*



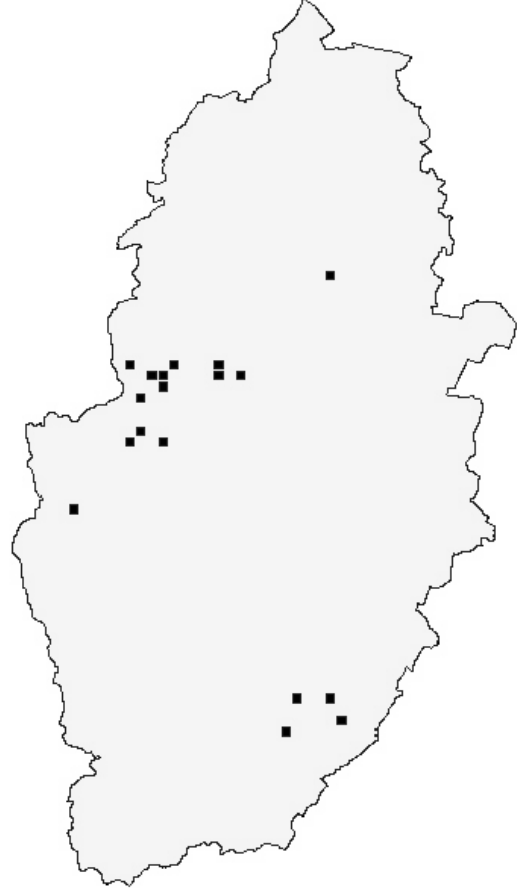
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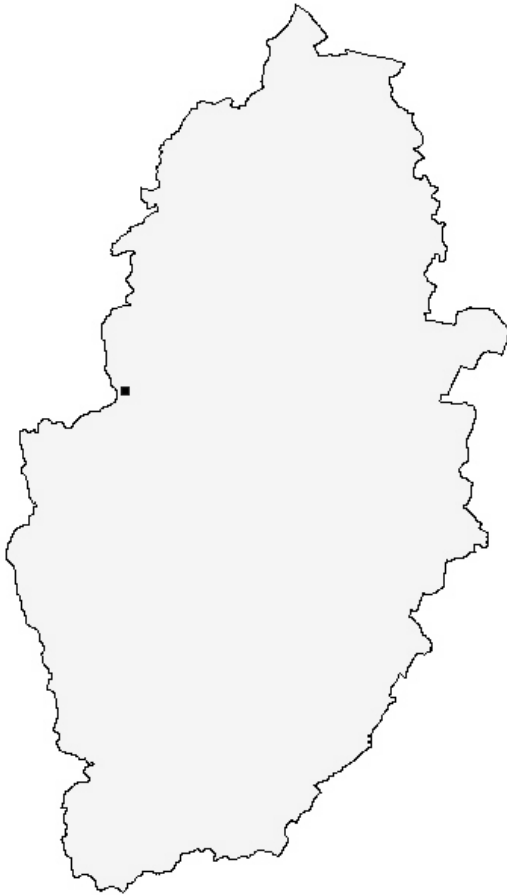
*Lithobius variegatus*



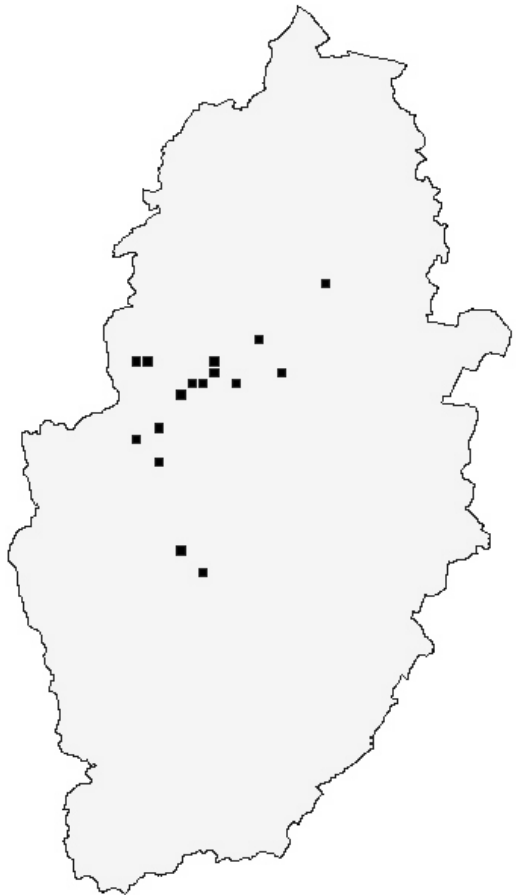
*Cryptops hortensis*



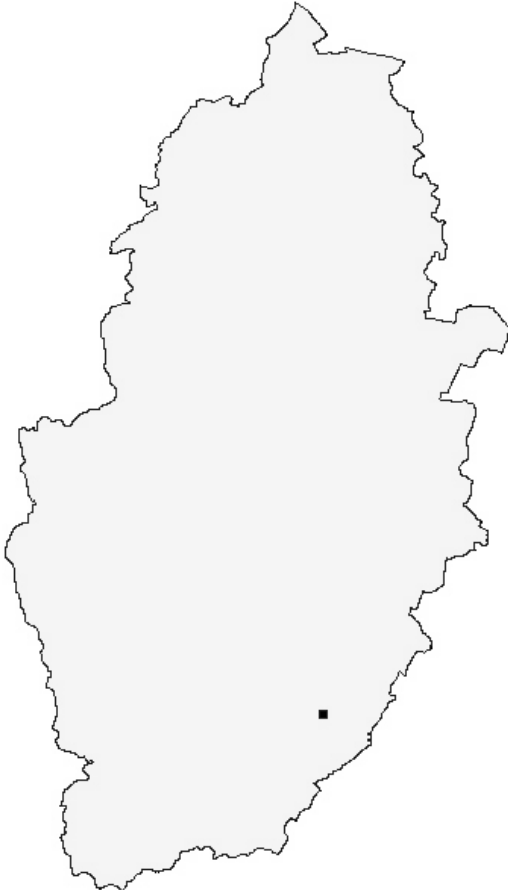
*Geophilus carpophagus*



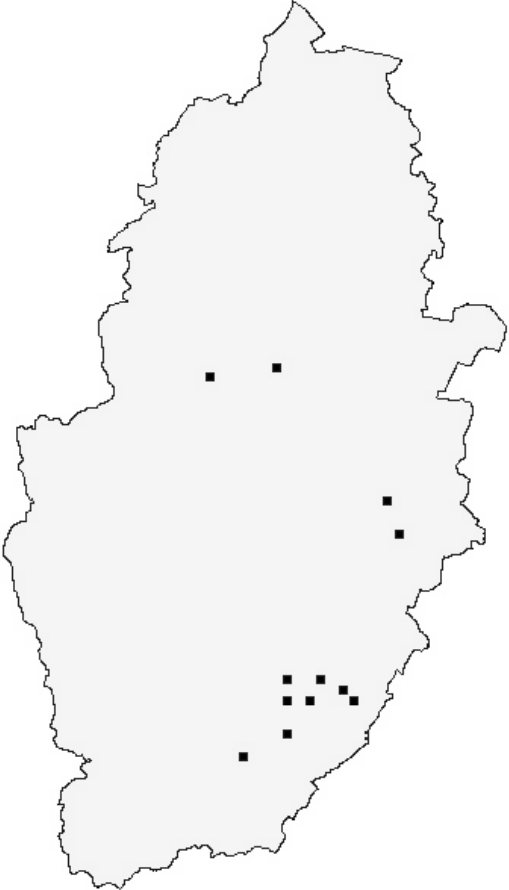
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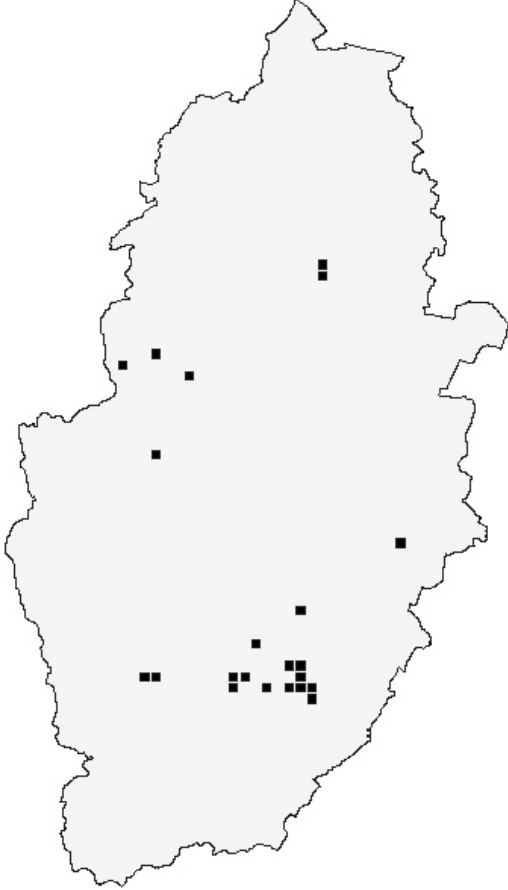
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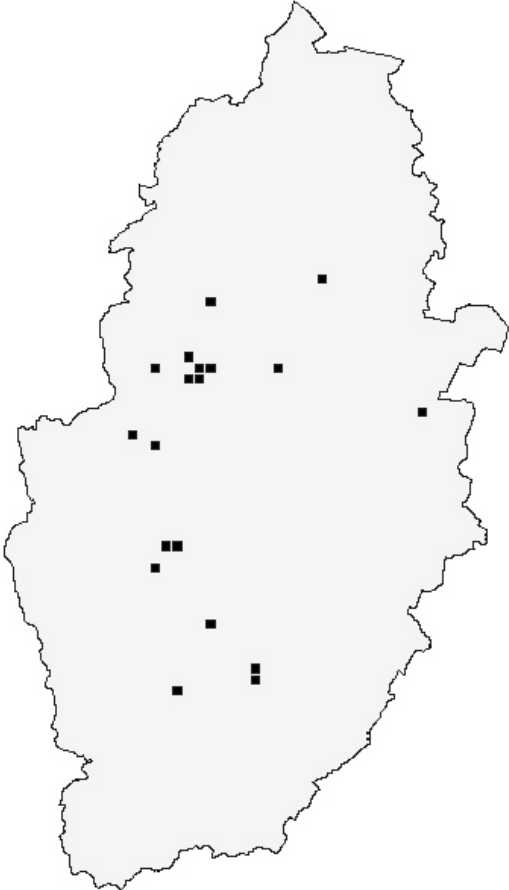
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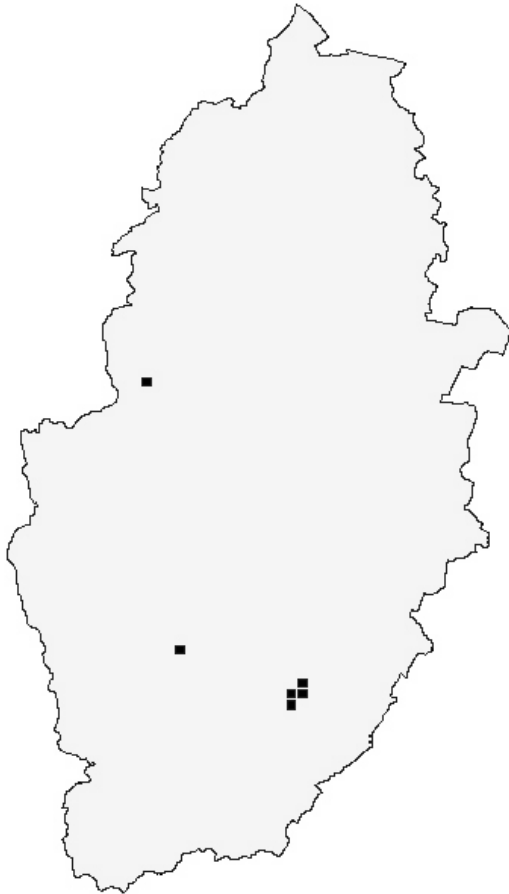
*Geophilus insculptus*



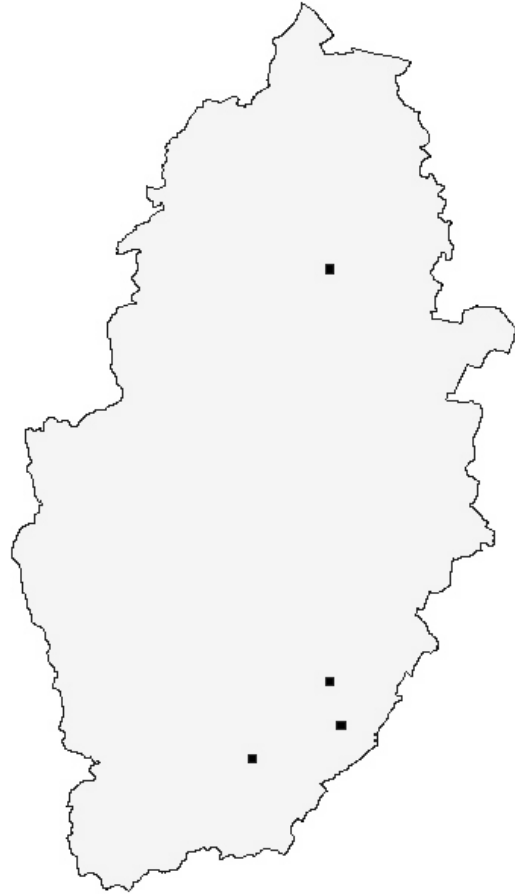
*Geophilus truncorum*



*Schendyla nemorensis*



*Strigamia acuminata*



*Stigmatogaster subterranea*

